



Convention Center Expansion

Summary

The original Austin Convention Center facility covered four city blocks downtown, bounded by Red River, East Cesar Chavez, Trinity and East Third streets. This project is a \$110 million expansion of the Convention Center on adjacent land north of the current facility, pushing the footprint to Fourth Street. The Center, which opened in July 1992, was built to allow for future expansion.

Status

The exterior skin and completion of the west elevation on Trinity is almost complete, at which time the building will be completely enclosed. Interior finishes are well underway, working east to west (the building is two blocks wide). The roof, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems are substantially complete. Estimated date of Substantial Completion is March 29, 2002.

Description

The expansion will add an additional 130,000 square feet of exhibit space, a new 40,000 square foot ballroom and another 35,000 square feet of meeting rooms, doubling its capacity.

Room nights - the nights people spend in area hotels - are expected to increase from 150,500 to 332,600 with the expansion.

A feasibility study on the Convention Center anticipates a community economic impact of an expansion to increase from \$70.6 million annually and 1,464 jobs to \$156.6 million annually and 3,268 jobs. The fiscal impact including property, sales and hotel taxes for Austin would grow from \$3.3 million annually to \$7.4 million annually. During construction of the expansion, Austin is expected to have a one-time benefit of \$145 million and 1,143 jobs.

Basic Data

Project Contact:	Tom Wood, Public Works Department, 404-4084
Project Manager:	Gilbane Building Company
General Contractor:	SpawGlass
Substantial Completion:	On schedule for March 2002